

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SP, MILI

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT OF SPANISH SOCIALIST LEGISLATORS

REF: MADRID 2598 (NOTAL)

1. SPANISH SOCIALIST DEPUTIES MUGICA AND SOLANA VISITED WASHINGTON 11-16 MARCH. THEY MET WITH STATE OFFICIALS FROM PM AND EUR, INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST. AT DOD THEY MET ON 15 MARCH WITH ASD MCGIFFERT AND DASD SIENA; SECDEF JOINED THE MEETING BRIEFLY. ON 16 MARCH THEY HAD LUNCH WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARTIN AND GENERAL NASH, AND LATER MET WITH SIENA, VADM HANNIFIN AND MR. RICHARD VIOLETTE, DSAA, DIR OF OPS. MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATION WILL BE POUCHED SELECTED
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ADDRESSEES. THE FOLLOWING ARE THEMES MUGICA AND SOLANA PURSUED IN VARIOUS MEETINGS.

2. MUGICA AND SOLANA SPOKE OF THE PROBABILITY OF THEIR PARTY COMING TO POWER AND URGED THAT THE US REJECT WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS AN IMMINENT APPEAL BY THE CURRENT GOS FOR SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THEY

SEE SPAIN AS HAVING A PROPER ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST, BUT NOT THROUGH NATO AND NOT VIA A US-SPANISH

BILATERAL PACT (THEY CITED THE FACT OF US BACKING FRANCO AS A PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO A CONTINUED BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND TO NATO ACCESSION). THEY SAID THEY WERE SEARCHING FOR ANOTHER MODEL, ONE IN WHICH SPAIN WOULD ORDER ITS DEFENSE AFFAIRS WITH THE US VIA A PACT WITH OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, AT TIMES IT APPEARED THAT THEY HEDGED ON THIS POINT BY BEING SOMEWHAT RECEPTIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF NATO MEMBERSHIP AT SOME FUTURE TIME, WHEN A CONSENSUS ON DEFENSE POLICY HAD DEVELOPED IN SPAIN AND THE COUNTRY IS NOT SO DIVIDED ON THAT ISSUE.

3. MUGICA AND SOLANA COMPLAINED THAT THE GOS HAS NOT INFORMED THEM ON MANY IMPORTANT DEFENSE ISSUES, AND THEY ASKED TO VISIT US DEFENSE FACILITIES IN SPAIN, ALTHOUGH THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BASES ARE SPANISH. THEY EXPLAINED THEIR OPPOSITION TO US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SPAIN, AND SAID THAT AFTER BECOMING THE GOVERNMENT THEY WOULD BE BACK IN THE US TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

4. REGARDING THE 1976 TREATY, SOLANA SAID THAT THE US SHOULD COMMENT TO THE GOS ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF SPAIN'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUESTS. HE ARGUED THAT THE SAF
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SHOULD HAVE NOT ONLY AN INTERCEPTOR ROLE, BUT ALSO CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AND FAR MORE ASW FORCES; THE SN NEEDS COR-VETTES WITH HELICOPTERS, NOT AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER (PROBABLY REFERENCE TO THE SEA CONTROL SHIP), AND SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH A DEFENSE LINE FROM THE BALEARICS THROUGH GIVRALTAR TO THE CANARIES, NOT ELSEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC. THE SA NEEDS TO ABANDON ITS ROLE OF CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY FOR ONE OF DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY, PRIMARILY TO REPEL POSSIBLE SOVIET AMPHIBIOUS ASSULTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST. (SOLANA MAY BE LARGELY IGNORANT OF CURRENT US-SPANISH FORCE MODERNIZATION AND COMBINED PLANNING UNDERTAKINGS.) SOLANA ALSO EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION REGARDING THE TREATY WITH THE SMALL DEGREE TO WHICH SPANISH INDUSTRY HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. VANCE

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